

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /084 W
----- 078895

R 091215Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3538

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

UNCLAS LUANDA 0553

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MILI AO

SUBJECT: COMMUNIQUE FROM HIGH COMMISSIONER AND LIBERATION GROUPS

1. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON MAY 7 ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE RESPONDING TO AN ATTACK BY AGOSTINHO NETO ON THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. FNLA AND MPLA, ALSO ON MAY 7 ISSUED COMMUNIQUE BLAMING EACH OTHER FOR THE VIOLENCE. MPLA THREATENED TO TAKE OFFENSIVE ACTION AGAINST REACTIONARIES.

2. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, FOLLOWING A POLICY HE SET SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, DIVULGED THE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENTS MADE ON MAY 1 AND 2 BY THE LIBERATION GROUPS AND PUBLICIZED THEIR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THEM. EACH GROUP WAS TO RETURN 500 SOLDIERS TO THEIR DESIGNATED BARRACKS BY MAY 2. BY MAY 7 MPLA HAD SENT 250, FNLA 160 AND UNITA 500. EACH GROUP WAS TO CONTRIBUTE 150 MEN TO A SPECIAL "PREVENTION FORCE" ON MAY 5. BY MAY 7 NEITHER FNLA NOR MPLA HAD SENT ANY MEN. UNITA HAD 150 EARMARKED
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BUT WOULD NOT COMMIT THEM UNTIL THE OTHER GROUPS DID LIKEWISE.

ON MAY 1 THE GROUPS AGREED TO PERMIT PORTUGUESE FORCES TO MAKE SEARCHES OF BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY THE GROUPS WHERE ILLEGAL FIRING HAD OCCURRED. THEY ALSO AGREED TO RETURN ALL PRISONERS. NEITHER PROVISION HAS BEEN PUT INTO EFFECT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A STATEMENT TO THE LISBON PRESS BY AGOSTINHO NETO THAT "PORTUGAL HAS PUT THE ANGOLAN ELECTIONS IN DOUBT" THE HIGH COMMISSIONER PUBLISHED A COMMUNIQUE CONTAINING THE PERTINENT PORTIONS OF THE ALVOR AGREEMENT, WHICH PUTS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ELECTIONS SQUARELY ON THE LIBERATION GROUPS AND IN WHICH THE PORTUGUESE AGREE NOT TO INTERFERE IN ANGOLA'S POLITICAL AFFAIRS. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER DISMISSED NETO'S "UNJUST AND UNFOUNDED" CHARGES AND WENT ON TO ATTACK THE "IMPERTINENT ATTITUDE OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, WHO CONSTANTLY AND CONSCIOUSLY VIOLATE" THE AGREEMENT AND "TO BLAME ON THE PORTUGUESE."

4. MPLA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE DENYING A RUMOR THAT IT WAS PLANNING AN ATTACK AGAINST ALL WHITES ON MAY 11, BLAMING THE RUMORS ON IMPERIALISTS AND DOMESTIC REACTIONNAIRES. IT ISSUED ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE ACCUSING FNLA OF KILLING, WOUNDING AND MUTILATING HUNDREDS OF CIVILIANS IN NORTHERN ANGOLA IN RECENT DAYS. MPLA SAID THE VIOLENCE WAS ETHNIC IN NATURE AND THAT ALL CONTACTS BETWEEN MPLA AND FNLA WOULD END AS A RESULT. MPLA WARNED FNLA THAT IT WAS CREATING THE DANGER OF A TRIBAL WAR IN ANGOLA. THE COMMUNIQUE ATTACKED REACTIONNAIRES OF ALL COLOR AND SAID THAT THE NEXT TIME VIOLENCE BREAKS OUT MPLA WILL NOT LIMIT ITSELF TO A DEFENSIVE ROLE AS IT HAS DONE UP TO NOW.

5. IN REPLY FNLA SAID THE VIOLENCE IN THE NORTH COULD NOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE VIOLENCE IN LUANDA AND THAT MPLA WAS RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE IT HAD ARMED ITS ETHNIC FOLLOWERS IN LUANDA TO ATTACK THE FNLA. FNLA SAID IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO KEEP ITS CONTACTS OPEN WITH MPLA, DESPITE THE RECENT EVENTS.
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